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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Application No. 10/798,391
Amendment dated August 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of

AUG 3 - 2006

Docket No.: 3313-1130P

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-13 and 16-20 are now pending in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 16 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 7, 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Burnham et al, US Patent 4,223,884. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Burnham et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Burnham et al in view of Japanese document 5-286585. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to highlight features of the present application wherein the pickup roller has a roller surface which includes an entirely high friction surface, during paper pickup, the pick mechanism turns in a clockwise direction to drive the pickup roller, moving in the paper feeding direction, to contact and pickup paper by rotation, once the paper arrives in the feed roller, the pick mechanism rotates counterclockwise to move the pickup roller away from the paper without impeding the continuous movement of the paper. This can be seen in FIGS. 7 and 8 of a second embodiment of a pick mechanism 400 of the invention. This feature is one difference between the present application and the cited US Patent to Burnham.

Claim 6 was amended to highlight the present application having an outer frame fastened to an inner side of the paper tray, the gears and the pickup roller being located on an inner side of the outer frame. This stresses the difference between the present application and the cited US Patent to Burnham. It is to be noted that the outer frame of the invention can provide stability for the entire mechanism during operation and provide a moving path for the retaining slots to confine the pickup roller.

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Apart from claim 6, dependent claim 11 recites the pick mechanism, wherein the paper tray has one side forming a slot run through by the pivot shaft. The cited JP-286585 document does not teach nor suggest this design even if combined with the teachings of the Burnham patent.

Since independent Claim 1 and 6 should overcome the rejection utilizing the Burnham patent and the JP-286585 document does not overcome the deficiencies of the Burnham patent, these claims should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the dependent claims will also be in condition for allowance. As such, all prior art rejections should now be reconsidered and withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Because the additional references cited by the Examiner have been merely included to show the state of the prior art and have not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are necessary at this time.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned (703) 205-8000, in Washington, D.C. area.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2448, under Order No. 4299-0208PUS1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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